Daily Report

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Guysuco Chairman Comments on 'Sugar Protocol'

FL2211163789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1515 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 22, CANA— Representatives of 12 ACP countries which supply sugar to the European Economic Community (EEC) have expressed serious concern about a two per cent reduction of the EEC sugar price. Their concern was expressed at a November 14-16 conference of sugar industry representatives from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) held in Scotland.

"The conference noted with the gravest possible concern that the EEC sugar price, to which the EEC claim ACP guaranteed sugar price must be linked, has been reduced by two per cent," a statement on the conference released by the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) whose chairman, Harold Davis, attended the conference, said on Wednesday.

The statement added: "if this reduction is applied to ACP exports under the sugar protocol, it would mean a reduction of approximately 12 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (sterling 8.5 million) in foreign exchange earnings in a single year which could not be afforded by the developing countries involved.

"It is difficult to understand the EEC imposing such a reduction on the ACP when the Lome Convention clearly calls for stabilising the export earnings of developing countries."

Sugar industries represented at the meeting chaired by Paul Eynaud from Mauritius were from Barbados, Belize, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica, Malawi, Mauritius, St. Kitts-Nevis, Swaziland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe.

The conference considered "the implications for the sugar protocol of developments in EEC sugar regime" and joint working sessions were held with the UK cane refiner, Tate & Lyle whose chairman, Neil Shaw, addressed the opening session.

The Guysuco statement said the conference also reiterated the critical importance of the sugar protocol to the developing economies of the ACP cane-producing countries.

In addition, the participating industries reviewed a number of strategies to be pursued in co-operation with their respective governments.

These strategies are intended to: resist the erosion of ACP sugar export earnings through the EEC's price restrictive policy; pursue with the EEC, their offer of special measures to compensate for the price freeze; overcome the problem of ocean freight costs; and, to continue to "press their strong case" for access into protocol of ACP sugar at guaranteed prices.

Several industries represented at the conference are members of the Sugar Association of the Caribbean (SAC) and they took the opportunity while in Scotland to hold the 105th meeting of the board of directors of the SAC and the 26th meeting of the SAC's marketing committee.

Sugar Producers 'Expected To Meet' U.S. Quotas

FL2211171989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1523 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 22, CANA— All members of the Sugar Association of the Caribbean (SAC), except St Kitts and Nevis, are expected to meet their U.S. quotas for the period January 1, 1989 to September 30, 1990.

A press release issued by the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) whose chairman, Harold Davis is also chairman of SAC, said on Wednesday that the situation in the U.S. market was discussed at the board's 105th meeting held in Scotland on November 13 and 17.

The meeting to coincide with a November 14-16 ACP [Africa, Caribbean, Pacific] conference of sugar industry representatives was addressed by Mr J. Garry of C. Czarnikow Inc, New York, who dealt with the U.S. sugar market.

The Guysuco press release said only St Kitts will possibly not meet its quota allocation because its sugar crop for 1990 has been severely affected by Hurricane Hugo.

The current U.S. quota allocations for SAC countries are as follows: Barbados - 13,246 tonnes; Belize - 20,815 tonnes; Guyana - 22,707 tonnes; Jamaica - 20,815 tonnes; St Kitts - 12,500 tonnes; Trinidad and Tobago - 13,246 tonnes. The quotas were increased recently following the United States' decision to redistribute Panama's quota.

The Guysuco statement also said that the SAC noted and approved the lobbying efforts being made to obtain favourable treatment in the U.S. for countries in the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) sugar group.

In addition, while in Scotland, the SAC members met with the UK refiners, Tate and Lyle and discussed matters of mutual interest.

"The refiners reiterated the importance which they attached to receiving their full supply of sugar from the region. For their part, the SAC representatives gave the assurance of their determination to maintain continuity of supplies," the statement said.

The release said the SAC members also discussed and arrived at a common view on issues such as the possibility of receiving EEC assistance for ocean freight and/or special measures and the action needed to secure increased access for ACP sugar to Portugal for 1992 when the period of transition under the Treaty of Accession for Portugal ends.

The meeting also reviewed the work of the West Indies sugar cane breeding station in Barbados.

Davis was reappointed SAC chairman for the 10th successive year. The other directors are: E.A.B. Deane of Barbados Sugar Industry Ltd.; L.M. Browne of Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.; V. Ramlogan of Caroni (1975) Ltd., Trinidad and Tobago; F.G. Downie of the Sugar Manufacturing Corporation of Jamaica; and S.J. Nathaniel of the Sugar Association of St Kitts and Nevis.

Cuba

Bush, Gorbachev To Discuss Regional Conflict

PA2811181389 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 89

["Point of View" commentary by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] As the day for the summit between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his U.S. counterpart, George Bush, draws near, international public opinion expectations increase, and there is reason for that.

The summit, to be held in Maltese territorial waters, is part of the process that began in Geneva in 1985, when proposals designed to free humanity from nuclear weapons were presented. Thus, both leaders will give much of their attention to the nuclear weapons issue. In fact, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze does not rule out the possibility of making considerable progress in that regard.

Diplomatic sources in Moscow believe that the Mediterranean summit could serve as a first step toward weakening Washington's iron rejection of negotiating naval weapons, which is one of the main obstacles to reaching more agreements in that field.

According to analysts' opinions, the informal meeting of Bush and Gorbachev will mostly cover European issues, because both the United States and the Soviet Union are carefully following the situation that has arisen in Eastern Europe as a result of current reforms taking place in several socialist countries.

We must bear in mind that the European situation was one of the main issues discussed by Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at their meeting last week. Similarly, that issue was also the center of attention during a recent EEC summit in Paris.

Since neither of the two sides have announced an agenda for the Malta summit, it has been said unofficially—especially in the United States—that the two presidents will discuss regional conflicts. Many have ruled out the possibility that the U.S. President will present Gorbachev with his old demand that the USSR end its weapons deliveries to Nicaragua. According to PRENSA LATINA, sources close to the Soviet Foreign Ministry have stated that there is no indication the USSR will change its attitude regarding the issue of Nicaragua, based on the repeatedly stated principle that the USSR is not the only country providing weapons to countries in that area.

According to the USSR, which has temporarily halted its weapons deliveries to Managua because of the upcoming Nicaraguan elections, an agreement to promote a political solution in Central America must include an end to arms shipments from all suppliers to various area countries.

In brief, Bush and Gorvachev will have their sights on disarmament, European issues, and regional conflicts, especially in Central America, during their meeting in Mediterranean waters.

Draft Resolution on Middle East Presented to UN

FL2811213789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2052 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Cuba today presented to the UN General Assembly a draft resolution on the Middle East that demands Israel's immediate withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The document includes three fundamental aspects: the consideration that a solution to the Palestinian problem is a central element in the conflict in that region, a condemnation of Tel Aviv's occupation of Gaza and the West Bank territories, and a denunciation of U.S. and South African cooperation with Israel.

Furthermore, Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations Oscar Oramas said in a speech that an international peace conference on the uprising is indispensable. He said it should be hosted by the United Nations and that all parties should participate in it, including the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization] and the members of the UN Security Council.

Country Reelected Member of FAO Council

FL2911020889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Cuba has been reelected a member of the Council of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO. This was announced by the president of the 25th FAO session. The results of last night's voting established that the five representatives for Latin America and the Caribbean to the FAO Council will be Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Cuba.

Panama's PRD Leader Views U.S. Aggression

FL2811152589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Our media organizations have time and again focused on the critical situation Panama has been facing as a result of the White House's hostile policy. A Panamanian delegation led by Darinel Espino, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], is visiting our country. Espino spoke with our reporter Eva Luna:

[Begin recording] [Luna] We understand that this is not an exclusive visit to Cuba; that is, members of your party have toured several Latin American countries, and we would like you to tell us the objective of these visits.

[Espino] With great pleasure. We want to tell you that the PRD has toured several Latin American and Caribbean countries to explain the Panamanian situation, the frequent violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, the

permanent penetration of U.S. Army personnel into our territory, and what all this means for our people, the effort our people have to make to maintain peace and guarantee the safety of the Panama Canal. With this in mind, we have struggled and have briefed the international community on our current situation. Furthermore, we have come to thank the Cuban people, Government, and party for their solidarity with the Panamanian people.

[Luna] In our newsroom, we have received frequent reports of the Yankee acts of provocation and aggression. We would like you, who come from Panama, to explain to the Cuban people the real present situation of the Panamanian people in the face of the U.S. aggression.

[Espino] The U.S. Army is perpetrating acts of aggression every day in our territory. The Panamanian people have assumed an increasingly belligerent, participatory role in the effort to avert the U.S. aggression against our people. An aggression recently was perpetrated in Arraijan, a community located near the capital, and the people have assumed their role. The Dignity Battalions; the CODEPADI's, the Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity; and the CODEPO's, the committees for the defense of the people, joined this effort and blocked the streets and access roads for the entry and exit of the U.S. Army. This action, which was taken in response to the U.S. aggression, reflects our people's decision to maintain full sovereignty over our national territory. [end recording]

Cultural Protocol Signed With Cape Verde

FL2811120289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] A cultural cooperation protocol has been signed between the Governments of Cuba and Cape Verde. Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca signed for Cuba, and Silvino da Luz, his counterpart, signed for Cape Verde.

The protocol includes the exchange of exhibits, records, and bibliographic materials, among others. Furthermore, the Cape Verdian party will take the necessary instructions for its country to attend the International Book Fair in Havana in 1990 and the succeeding fairs. Cuba will also invite Cape Verde to attend the Fourth Havana Biennial for Plastic Arts.

After the protocol signing ceremony, the Cuban and Cape Verdian Foreign Ministry delegations began their official talks for their respective ministries.

Cape Verdian President on Southern Africa

FL2811202789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira, general secretary of the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde, left for his country today. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee, was at Jose Marti International Airport to bid him farewell.

Shortly before leaving the country, President Pereira held a news conference.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr President, we would like to hear your evaluation of the negotiating process between Angola, Cuba, and South Africa that paved the way for the enforcement of UN Resolution 435 for Namibian independence.

[Pereira in Portuguese, with simultaneous translation into Spanish] Regarding developments in the Namibian situation, I believe it is obvious to everyone, and we can all see now that the independence process continues. The South-West African People's Organization won the elections a few days ago, and now the struggle is aimed at obtaining independence. We consider this to be a major breakthrough to making progress in normalizing the situation in southern Africa and consolidating the situation in Angola.

I would also like to say that this visit was extremely informative for us because we always knew about Cuban internationalism, which was obviously supported by deeds and which was proven through active participation in the struggles for national liberation in Africa, of which we ourselves had specific experience. While visiting the Isle of Youth, we were able to ascertain that that same internationalism is practiced here in Cuba. An example has been set there of the possibilities of human coexistence, of solidarity among men. This is, in sum, a very lofty quality that many people often fail to appreciate. [end recording]

Commentary on Sentences of Human Rights Activists

FL2811230589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Article 115 of the Cuban Penal Code states: Anyone who disseminates false news with the intent of disturbing international peace, harming the prestige or credibility of the Cuban State, or its good relations with another state commits a crime that is punishable through 1-4 years' imprisonment. In accordance with this article, Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, Hiram Abi Covas, and Hubert Jerez Marino were tried and sentenced. Sanchez was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment, and Abi Covas and Jerez Marino were sentenced to 18 months.

The three individuals, as was clearly proven during the oral hearing, spread false information with the deliberate intention of harming the prestige and credibility of the Cuban state. These despicable people said that the members of the Ochoa-La Guardia group were mistreated, psychologically tortured, and in some cases, drugged. They even said the burial place of those who were shot by the firing squad was kept from their relatives.

The worm radio [Radio Marti] and other more sophisticated organizations immediately became the sounding boards for such infamies. They magnified the lies while suspicious organizations, which say they defend human rights, contributed to propagating the disturbance throughout the world.

However, those people, like this bunch of opportunists who have nothing human about them, miscalculated. The Cuban revolution takes pride in being the most generous of the revolutions that have taken place in the world. Nevertheless, let no one think the laws of the Cuban revolution can be violated without being punished. Do not let euphoria be a bad adviser. There cannot be any confusion about this, and there will not be any concessions made. Struggle is the natural habitat of a revolutionary, and that struggle is the one that our people are ready to wage under any circumstances, whatever they may be.

Caricom

Haiti, Caricom Begin Trade Negotiations

FL2811155389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1449 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 28, CANA— The inaugural meeting of the Haiti/Caribbean Community (Caricom) Joint Technical Group began on Monday night with head of the Haitian delegation, Edouard Vales Jean-Laurent, calling for the intensification of efforts to promote the integration of Haiti in Caricom.

Edouard Vales Jean-Laurent, who is the director-general of Haiti's Customs Department, said this can take place through multiple exchanges involving member states of Caricom and through the signing of a preferential trade agreement between Haiti amd Caricom.

"Our position as a non-member of Caricom certainly limits our penetration of the Caribbean. But the establishment of customs tariffs and the extension of Caribbean lines of transport would constitute the main points of negotiations between Haiti and Caricom within the context of the Joint Technical Group (JTG)," Jean-Laurent added.

He said that while language barriers will certainly limit rapid development of Haiti/Caricom relations, the JTG with the support of an agreement on co-operation "will allow all the Caribbean partners to intensify relationships at the commercial, industrial and cultural levels and in the areas of environment and disaster preparedness."

"The relationships cannot develop without the participation of all the institutions of the Caribbean Common Market as well as the private sectors of Haiti and Caricom. The contacts can be established at the levels of the chambers of commerce and industry of the two parties," he added, through an interpreter.

Earlier, Caricom deputy secretary-general, Frank Abdullah, who is heading the Caricom delegation at the two days of talks, said he saw the current inaugural meeting of the JTG as "a challenge to the community to establish new patterns—new habits if you like—of co-operation."

"It is ... A unique opportunity to set about ending the isolation of the past, to reach toward that oneness of effort which history has denied and to which geography impels us," Abdullah added.

He noted that the meeting has been long been in the making, the JTG having been established by the the Caricom heads of government since their meeting in the Bahamas, in 1984. That same meeting had agreed that Haiti should be offered observer status in the deliberations of Caricom's ministerial institutions responsible for agriculture, education, health and labour.

"The road between Nassau and Georgetown has been long...but at long last we have arrived at what can only be regarded as an important juncture in the history of relations between Haiti and the Caribbean Community," Abdullah added.

He said the importance to Caricom of these relations and of relations with other non-Caricom Caribbean countries "should neither be misunderstood nor undervalued."

The Caricom delegation at the talks includes delegates from Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. Together with the four-member Haiti delegation, they will be discussing, among other things, possibilities for the development of trade co-operation and transportation links and Lome. They are also expected to come up with decisions about arrangements for follow-up actions.

On the question of Lome IV now being negotiated between the African, Caribbean and Pacific [ACP] group of countries and the European Community, Jean-Laurent took the opportunity at the opening session to thank Caricom member states for supporting Haiti's candidature at the Lome IV convention.

"Our active participation in the ACP group will allow for a strengthening of regional integration. At the Caricom level, projects which we have to undertake together, within the framework of regional co-operation, will make of the Caribbean a formidable partnership in the face of the EEC," he said.

Grenada

Merging of Three Political Parties Fails

FL2811200189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1653 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 28, CANA—Talks on a possible electoral alliance by three small political parties have failed, according to the leader of the Marxist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM).

MBPM leader Dr Terry Marryshow named the other groups as the People's Party for Growth and Accountability (PEPGA) of Dr Davidson Budhoo, and the Grenada People's Movement (GPM) of Dr Raphael Fletcher.

"We discussed all aspects of coming together and in the final analysis what happened is that the talks had not materalized in anything," he said. Marryshow said the main stumbling block had to do with the fact that both PEPGA and GPM had different agendas from that of the MBPM. He accused the two parties of trying to place unacceptable demands on the MBPM.

He cited for instance a demand that the MBPM should change its name—a position it regarded as not in the best interest of the party and its supporters.

"Those people found it fundamental enough not to want to associate because of something like that," Marryshow said. He said that in the case of PEPGA its leader—a former economist with the International Monetary Fund—was advocating an economic programme for Grenada which he felt he alone could implement.

Marryshow said the MBPM has not totally shut the doors on future negotiations with the two groups.

"If they (PEPGA and GPM) decide to change their mind and they are willing to work with us, we would talk with them," he said.

Guyana

Hoyte Not To Tolerate 'Irresponsible Behavior'

FL2811191589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1827 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 28, CANA—Guyana's president, Desmond Hoyte, has told opposition politicians that the "silly season" is over and his People's National Congress [PNC] will not tolerate their irresponsible behaviour.

Addressing a weekend rally at the bauxite mining town of Linden, 65 miles south of here, Hoyte accused opposition groups of exploiting the sentiments of the Linden people for their "narrow sectional interests".

Opposition groups, he said, invaded the town recently, sought to convert an industrial dispute into political issues and claimed that they have large support in the town. But when the time came earlier this month for them to prove their support, they boycotted the [words indistinct]. He told the public rally at Poker Square that "enough is enough" and he called on the crowd to send out a message to the opposition that the silly season is over and the PNC will "fight them to the death" for "the time has come for hard politics".

He added: "Let them not believe that they will have the arena for themselves running about undermining the integrity of this country, slandering the good name of this country, all to pursue narrow sectional interests.

"The silly season is over and if anybody risks that kind of assault on the people of Guyana again, I shall let loose the dogs of war".

At the rally, Hoyte formally presented the 20 PNC councillors who were elected unopposed to run the affairs of the town for the next three years.

IMF Team Arrives To Continue Economic Talks

FL2811195489 Bridgetown CANA in English 1902 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 28, CANA—A three-member team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has arrived in Guyana to continue talks with the government on its economic programmes.

Government spokesman Christopher "Kit" Nascimento told CANA the team will continue its review of the performance of the economy and "revisit the Economic Recovery Programme [ERP]".

The government and the IMF began reviewing the performance of the economy and renegotiating the targets for the government's one-year IMF-monitored programme in August but the negotiations were halted temporarily without agreement being reached.

The two sides appeared to have failed to reach common ground on issues including an insistence by the IMF that the Guyana currency which had been devalued by 70 per cent at the end of March should be further devalued because of the poor performance of the economy during the first half of the year.

The government has attributed the poor performance of the economy largely to seven-week post-budget strikes in the sugar and bauxite industries earlier this year, which it said resulted in a 20 million U.S. dollar net loss of foreign exchange.

Another sticky issue at the moment is the government's need for additional foreign inflows which it hopes to receive from the Guyana support group of Western donor countries being chaired by Canada. In particular, it is hoping that seven million U.S. dollars promised by the United States Administration will become available shortly.

The U.S. contribution will go towards helping Guyana clear its indebtedness with the multilateral financial institutions, but it has not yet been released because the administration's request has not been approved by the U.S. Congress. Meanwhile, the Guyana Government is still hoping to enter into an agreement for an enhanced structural adjustment facility with the IMF early in the new year and President Desmond Hoyte has promised to address the nation on his government's ERP and discussions with the IMF as soon as certain arrangements are finalised.

He leaves Guyana Wednesday to attend the annual Miami conference on the Caribbean and that address is not now likely to be given until after his return here.

Haiti

Avril Inaugurates Project in Port-Salut

FL2811150789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1000 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, accompanied by several members of the Haitian Armed Forces and the cabinet, traveled to Port-Salut commune in the Department of the South on 24 November. He inaugurated a public marketplace built within the framework of diverse projects by the Office of Citizens' Grievances program. [passage omitted]

The communal magistrate of Port-Salut said in his speech: We hope this achievement will signal the beginning of a number of projects presented by city hall to both the Citizens' Grievances program and the program of the Ministry of Interior and National Defense. [passage omitted]

In addressing the population, Lt Gen Avril said the inauguration of this public marketplace would surely be followed by other, possibly much more important, inaugurations in the future. [passage omitted]

[Avril] "As far as I am concerned, a project's size is not the measure of its importance. Its importance lies in its value to the populace and the nation, and as an example. Some people think we are politicizing a small marketplace that we have built. That is not the point; we have no interest in politicizing anything at all. We came from the peasantry; consequently, everything the peasants do interests us.

This small marketplace is of great importance because it shows what people can accomplish when they get together with a government instead of simply sitting around engaging in demagogy and politicking.

The first thing people need is work. When a nation is working, it is easier to obtain health care, education, and food. I see that this is the path chosen by the population of Port-Salut, and that is why I am here." [passage omitted]

Gen Avril said the government has taken the appropriate and necessary measures to combat insecurity and that the participation of all Haitians is required.

[Avril] "Many things are happening in Haiti that I think Port-Salut is noticing and following. Naturally, the major concern is the order of the day. Insecurity has taken root in Port-au-Prince and many other places in Haiti. It has been said that we are working to root out, uproot [dechouke], this insecurity. To uproot this insecurity, everyone must participate, because we have to fight not only those actually responsible for the insecurity but also those propagating the idea, leading to the belief that the insecurity stems either from the government or somewhere else.

There was a very recent case: Ever since (?an end was put to) certain movements in Haiti, ever since certain terrorists were brought under control, we had gone a long time without hearing any talk of insecurity in Port-au-Prince. I myself marked down in a notebook every day that passed."

Gen Avril also spoke of the three young men murdered in Drouillard who were members of the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats, former President Leslie Manigat's party. President Avril said the incident caused an outcry throughout Haiti. Here is what caught the general's attention following the investigation .

[Avril] "When I went looking for this student's relatives, the faculty said they had never heard of such a person. [pause] When things like this happen in Haiti, we must stop and think. We must reason so as not to let anyone lead us astray. Meanwhile, students held meetings, participated in strikes, and so forth. And then what happened? The faculty said they were not familiar with that name."

The president added that development must come from the womb of the peasantry because, for the most part, only the peasants are wholesome and innocent in Haiti. [passage omitted]

[Avril] "The nation's development must come from the womb of the peasantry because the peasants are wholesome. The peasants are clean. The peasants do not engage in crooked wheeling and dealing. The peasants do not lie to (?further politics). Now, because I come from the peasantry, I think we can unite to save the nation from our present situation." [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Military Reports 9 Dead in Recent Fighting

PY2911023889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0208 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Nov (EFE)—At least 9 people—including soldiers, rebels, and civilians—have died and 13 more were wounded in armed confrontations during the past few hours in San Salvador and 2 departments north and east of El Salvador, according to military reports.

Four guerrillas died and two soldiers were wounded in confrontations that occurred early this morning in the cities of Mejicanos and Ciudad Delgado, located north of San Salvador, according to the same reports.

The confrontations, in which carbines, mortars, and explosives were used, began at 0230 (0830 GMT), when the rebels "tried to enter" the northern suburbs of San Salvador, but were "repelled" by government troops with the support of the Air Force, according to the Army's Press Office.

Another four guerrillas were killed and two were wounded in armed confrontations in Tonacatepeque, 16 km north of San Salvador, and in Chalatenango and San Miguel, located in the northern and eastern parts of the country, respectively.

The Army has acknowledged that one soldier died and another five were wounded in those places.

The Armed Forces have stated that four employees of the Rio Lempa Hydroelectric Executive Commission were wounded by explosives that had been placed by the rebels in a technical institute located in the Zacamil neighborhood, which had been occupied for some days by the rebels during the recent offensive.

The Army also indicates that the rebels set fire to a car and another two vehicles in San Salvador and San Miguel.

Rebel Radio Updates San Salvador Fighting

PA2811221889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2132 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Attention. Pay great attention. This information was provided to Radio Venceremos at 1532. Fighting in northern San Salvador continues. There is heavy fighting throughout the northern sector of San Salvador—in Soyapango, Ciudad Delgado, Ayutuxtepeque, Mejicanos, Mariona, and Apopa. There is heavy fighting.

Army helicopters have arrived at the Ciudad Delgado area and are strafing and firing rockets. Fighting in northern San Salvador continues. The comrades in San Salvador report that at some points Army troops refuse to fight, have not reacted, and our forces are maintaining positions in various points in northern San Salvador.

We have a last-minute report from San Salvador: Today, 28 November, diplomatic personnel from the Italian and French embassies have begun evacuating the capital. The Italian Embassy has announced that only the ambassador and a few aides remain. The same is happening at the French Embassy. This comes as heavy fighting has been going on in the capital for several hours. The fighting right now is confined to the northern sector of the capital. The Army has already suffered heavy casualties.

FMLN Reports on Fighting in San Salvador

PA2811215789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2015 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] We have received a report advising us that at 0200 [0800 GMT] today, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] forces attacked a group of paratroopers at the INSA [expansion unknown] factory in Soyapango. The report also adds that since early this morning fighting has been going on in Guadalupe neighborhood, also in Soyapango. Reports from other areas of San Salvador speak of heavy clashes since early this morning. The report states that at 0200 today, FMLN units attacked two 4th Infantry Brigade Cobra Battalion companies in San Salvador. The troops were in El Carmen Hill, Ayutuxtepeque jurisdiction. The report adds that the FMLN inflicted casualties of two dead and three wounded, including a sergeant and corporal. This means that the 4th Infantry Brigade is already in San Salvador. This is the situation in San Salvador: Sonsonate troops, 5th Infantry Brigade troops, and 4th Infantry Brigade troops are in San Salvador. This is proof of how badly the enemy is doing.

The report adds that, since this morning, fighting against Atlacatl Battalion troops was reported in the area around El Carmen Hill. Atlacatl Battalion troops were going to reinforce the cowardly 4th Infantry Brigade troops, who have left Chalatenango and are now in San Salvador. The fighting ended at 0930.

We repeat: At 0200 today, FMLN units attacked a group of paratroopers at the INSA factory in Soyapango. Fighting was also reported in San Jacinto, Mejicanos, Ayutuxtepeque, Soyapango, Santa Eduviges, Escandia neighborhood, El Carmen neighborhood, and other areas of San Salvador. We are waiting for more reports, because we have learned that fighting has resumed in the capital city.

To add to the report we have received from San Salvador, we wish to state that heavy fighting occurred this morning in Guadalupe neighborhood, Soyapango. At 0600, National Guard troops were ambushed at km 11 on the Northern Trunk road. The National Guard suffered dead and wounded during that ambush. We will have more information on this ambush later.

More on Fighting

PA2811231789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2211 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Attention: A report from San Salvador states that fighting continues in the northern sector of the city. Our forces are finding little resistance from the so-called troops brought from the interior of the country. The report states that during today's clashes in Ciudad Delgado, Los Alpes, Guadalupe, and San Patricio neighborhoods, the Treasury Police suffered three casualties. We inflicted two casualties on the Treasury Police in Los Alpes neighborhood, and the 6th Military Detachment suffered one casualty during a clash in San Patricio neighborhood. It has also been reported that FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] forces have set up barricades on the Northern Trunk Road and powerlines have been sabotaged. As a result of this sabotage, an area of San Salvador does not have power. We have also learned that two transformers were destroyed on km 10 of the Northern Trunk road, where barricades were also set up. The report adds that the enemy showed up 90 minutes after the barricades had been set up and heavy fighting resulted. The enemy troops suffered four casualties; our forces have reported that they have not encountered problems on the Northern Trunk road. At this hour, 1613, the rebel presence is increasing on the Northern Trunk road.

Attention: During yesterday's attack, with people's artillery [artilleria popular] on 4th Infantry Brigade troops, we inflicted eight casualties. These eight casualties have been confirmed.

At noon today, clashes with 1st Military Detachment troops was reported in La Cruz Hill, San Miguel de Mercedes jurisdiction. We repeat: Today at noon, fighting was reported in La Cruz Hill, San Miguel de Mercedes, Chalatenango Department.

This has been the latest report we have received. There is fighting in Ciudad Delgado, Los Alpes, Guadalupe, San Patricio, and our guerrilla columns are spreading throughout the northern part of the city. It is now 1615, and the high command has not reacted. This gives us an idea of how low morale is among the soldiers in San Salvador. This new blow against the enemy forces in San Salvador has caused the morale of the enemy forces to drop even further.

Attention: We have just learned that there has been a rebel ambush in the northern sector of San Salvador. The report adds that at 0630 today, rebel forces ambushed a vehicle transporting National Guardsmen. The ambush occurred on km 9.5 on the Northern Trunk road. The guardsmen were heading into an area where the FMLN rebels have set up barricades. A powerful Guazapa-type mine and rifles were used in the ambush. At least 10 casualties, including a National Guard officer, were inflicted. We repeat: A National Guard officer is included among the casualties we inflicted during this ambush carried out on km 9.5 on the Northern Trunk road.

We also have learned that fighting continues in Mejicanos, Ayutuxtepeque, Ciudad Delgado, and Soyapango. Heavy fighting is also being reported in Apopa and Mariona. Rebel forces are spreading out throughout the northern area of San Salvador, and they are finding little resistance. At 1616, this has been the report received at Radio Venceremos. We are receiving reports from our liberated terroritories, from Chalate [Chalatenango], Morazan, San Miguel. Greetings to our forces in San Salvador; onwards fighting comrades; our people are supporting you in San Salvador.

Former Supreme Court President Assassinated

Government Condemns Killing

PA2911132489 San Salvador Domestic Service Network in Spanish 1227 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Salvadoran Government communique issued in San Salvador on 28 November]

[Text] The Salvadoran Government strongly condemns the cowardly assassination of former Supreme Court President Francisco Jose Guerrero, an outstanding public official, by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists. This vile act was perpetrated on 28 November on Heroes Boulevard in the city of San Salvador. Once again the desperate beasts of the FMLN, directed and supported by Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega, have committed another cruel and merciless attack on a man who from his personal political position has performed very important services for our fatherland.

This brutal act committed by the FMLN terrorists demonstrates to the national and international public that the FMLN has an insatiable thirst for blood and that all of the social components of the Salvadorans are victims of terrorist aggression. Obviously, with this crime, the FMLN is trying to undermine the morale of the Salvadoran people. With its terrorist escalation it is beginning a phase of physical elimination of important political leaders of the nation. The government denounces this before the international community, urging that it act immediately to condemn the FMLN act and its intentions to continue attacking the Salvadoran people.

The Government of the Republic hereby conveys to the mourning relatives its deepest condolences for the death of Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero and invokes divine justice in the face of such a monstrous crime. Also, with the firm national unity of the Salvadoran people and the defensive arm of our Armed Forces it voices determination in repelling the aggression of FMLN mercenaries who are massacring our people and punishing with the full weight of the law those who have been identified by the Salvadoran people as the authors of the inhuman aggression.

FMLN Denies Involvement

PY2911000589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2321 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Nov (EFE)—The Salvadoran Government today condemned the death of Francisco Jose Guerrero, a former foreign minister and former president of the Supreme Court, and accused the guerrillas, "led and supported by Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega" (presidents of Cuba and Nicaragua, respectively), of his death.

A government communique states that "once again the guerrilla beasts, led and supported by Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega, have perpetrated a cruel and merciless attack against a man who from his personal political position has performed very important services for our fatherland."

A guerrilla spokesman, however, has rejected this accusation, which was also formulated by the Salvadoran Army, and he announced from Costa Rica that the leadership of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) is "preparing an official communique regarding Guerrero's death."

The guerrilla spokesman, who preferred not to reveal his identity, indicated that Guerrero "was one of the political leaders who agreed that a negotiated solution should be sought for the Salvadoran conflict."

The communique of the Salvadoran Government, which is headed by Alfredo Cristiani, states that "this brutal action, which has been carried out by the guerrillas, demonstrates to national and foreign consciences that the FMLN has an insatiable thirst for blood."

The former Salvadoran foreign minister died today in San Salvador when he was hit by 18 bullets as his vehicle was machinegunned by unknown persons on a downtown avenue in the capital.

Guerrero—65, married, with three children—was president of the Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1968, foreign minister from 1969 to 1971, minister of the Presidency in 1982, and presidential candidate for the National Conservative Conciliation Party in 1984.

Cristiani Reacts to Killing

PA2911023689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0142 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] There is profound indignation over the murder of Supreme Court President Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero, former president of the Supreme Court of Justice. The murder was committed by terrorists at about 0930 today [28 November]. According to witnesses, the terrorists drove a yellow Volkswagen.

President Alfredo Cristiani has ordered a complete investigation to determine who murdered Dr Guerrero and to bring them to trial according to the Salvadoran penal code, which was modified a few days ago. Both private and public sectors have spoken out against these crimes, because they only bring more grief and pain to the suffering Salvadoran people.

Merino Deplores Killing

PA2911025789 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0208 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Francisco Merino, vice president of the Republic and interior minister, has strongly condemned the murder of former Supreme Court President Francisco Jose Guerrero. Merino described the culprits as murderous beasts.

The vice president went to the medical-surgical hospital of the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security, where Dr Guerrero was taken after the attack. Guerrero, who was an adviser to the Governmental Commission to Support the Dialogue, was shot to death by terrorists at the intersection of Boulevard de los Heroes and Alameda Juan Pablo II.

[Begin Merino recording] What they are showing is that they are bent on carrying out totally destructive actions to lower the confidence of the population and provoke a general panic. I think that although as a government we have always maintained a conciliatory position to attain peace in El Salvador, we must also make a firmer decision to take stronger action. The people who commit these wanton actions are deranged people. They do not understand words. They do not understand that they must respect a legal system, or a democratic process, or one of humanization. They are simply beasts and murderers and must be treated as such. [end recording]

Merino said the murderers must be punished with the full weight of the law, and that one of the terrorists who was wounded and captured at the site of the crime is under interrogation.

[Begin Merino recording] One of the criminals was wounded. This will obviously enable us to obtain some clues as to the identity of the actual killers and the masterminds of this new murder, which has shocked Salvadoran society.

As in previous cases, we are conducting investigations in this case. However, I repeat that the time has come for us to take a firmer stand, do our utmost, and realize that if nothing has happened to us thus far, it does not mean we will not fall victim to these murderers. It is better to take precautions now than to be sorry later. [end recording]

Merino said that this campaign of violence promoted by the terrorist hordes has not ended. Clear evidence of this is this brutal and cowardly murder, which has again filled the suffering Salvadoran people with sorrow.

Col Ponce on Killing, FMLN, Downed Pilot

PA2911044689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0110 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Report on interview with Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Salvadoran Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, by unidentified reporters at a news conference "this afternoon"; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Ponce] "This again proves the aggression by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] against the Salvadoran people, against poor people, and against our country's distinguished politicians. This is added to the innocent lives taken by the FMLN from the Salvadoran population. I want to tell you we have a person under arrest who was wounded, right where the attack took place, by Dr Guerrero's bodyguard. We have his identity; he is affilitated with the FMLN, but we will not release his name while the investigation is under way. The Salvadoran people are the best witnesses to the FMLN aggression against our people."

[Announcer] Ponce also said that the terrorists carry out these actions as part of their strategy to scare the population.

[Ponce] "We want to say that conditions to enable Marxism and the FMLN to win are practically nil. The people completely reject them. The FMLN is using that lying and losing Venceremos radio station to fool their own cadres. In Nicaragua, there were some stations that were in network with this lying and losing Venceremos radio station, broadcasting false reports about El Salvador. This is also part of the aggression. To allow their so-called high-ranking FMLN commanders to be in Nicaragua is also part of the aggression. No one can ignore the aggression that the Sandinist government has been exerting for a long time against the Salvadoran Government and people."

[Reporter] "Having found these sophisticated weapons, does it mean you expect the aggressive counteroffensive these groups are launching to widen?

[Ponce] "Definitely not. We believe their cadres are decimated. This could affect mainly our Air Force; however, we are taking the proper tactical and technical preventive measures. What should be very clear to all Salvadorans is that for the FMLN to attain power, which is their goal, they will have to climb over the body of the last Armed Forces soldier."

[Announcer] Ponce also said that the missiles and other weapons sent by Ortega for the FMLN are aggressions against the Salvadoran people, explaining that it was a Nicaraguan who lives in this capital who identified the man who piloted the small aircraft carrying the weapons for the terrorists.

[Ponce] "He said that it was Quiros Garcia. However, that evening he called back and said that the pilot should have part of his thumb missing, and to please check him out. The body we have was checked and one of the thumbs has a part missing. To us this is irrefutable proof. We all know of Ortega's cyncism. On the one hand, he made promises at Esquipulas II, signing agreements he was not prepared to implement; he would not do it since he was really doing these other things. He is the same as the FMLN. The FMLN was discussing peace at a dialogue table while it was preparing for this offensive. It is a mockery of the people, because their desire for peace has been fooled with. The domestic and international public has been fooled."

[Announcer] Finally, Ponce said the subversive groups have low morale and are desperate, because if Daniel Ortega loses the elections, they, too, will lose, and forever. Additionally, the Salvadoran people do not support their irrational actions that only produce death and destruction.

Ungo Thinks More Proof Needed in Plane Incident

PA2911002189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2019 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City—Salvadoran politician Guillermo Ungo said today in Panama City that there is not enough proof to accuse Nicaragua of being involved in the case of the plane that crashed in El Salvador. According to Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, the plane was chartered by his counterpart, Daniel Ortega, to take weapons to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Ungo, leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, regretted that this incident was used for an impulsive and precipitated break in relations, adopted in the heat of anger or perhaps with another motive.

According to Ungo, this is proof that there are no doves and hawks within the Salvadoran Government, but rather a struggle between hawks and vultures. Ungo feels that the break in relations with Nicaragua represents a step backward, hinders the peace process in the region, and makes it difficult to hold the presidential summit scheduled to be held in Managua.

Ungo said that there is a big credibility gap. How can a little plane carry 1,500 pounds of weapons? That is more like a shipment that would be carried by a Boeing 727. This is why things are not too clear.

Government on FMLN 'Aggression,' Nicaragua

PA2911041789 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0242 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Government statement; date and place not given]

[Text] In light of the terrorist armed aggression launched against the Salvadoran people on 11 November by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] with the open support and direction of the Sandinist government headed by Daniel Ortega, the Salvadoran Government advises the international community that

on the day the current government assumed office, it expressed its firm desire to seek, through the civilized path of dialogue, a comprehensive solution to the conflict, because the Marxist-Leninist group's cause brings bloodshed to our people. Thus, President Cristiani's government promoted the process of dialogue that began in Mexico City on 13, 14, and 15 September 1989. At that time, government and FMLN delegations signed an agreement committing themselves to seeking an end to hostilities within the spirit of the agreements signed by the Central American presidents in Tela, Honduras. Based on the agreement reached in Mexico City, the issue to be broached during the second round of talks to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 16 and 17 October would be an end to hostilities based on proposals presented by the government and the FMLN. At that time, the FMLN did not allow the discussion of the topic previously agreed on and presented a series of proposals, deliberately complex in form and content, with the evident purpose of preventing the main and only topic on the agenda from being discussed.

On 11 November, the FMLN launched an aggression against the Salvadoran people, an aggression that was obviously planned at least a few months before it was launched. This proves that while the FMLN was talking peace and negotiations around the negotiating table, it was preparing the criminal attack against the Salvadoran people with the political, logistical, and military support of Ortega's government.

Since the beginning of the terrorist aggression to date, certain things have happened that prove the Sandinist government's involvement in the genocide implemented by the FMLN terrorists. The Salvadoran Government has proof that the FMLN is a puppet of Daniel Ortega's deadly plans; faced with an imminent electoral defeat, and in conjunction with Fidel Castro, he is attempting to regionalize an armed conflict in Central America to try to save the Sandinist regime.

In light of the above, and having established the Sandinist Government's participation in the terrorist aggression experienced by the Salvadoran people, the Salvadoran Government agreed on 26 November 1989 to suspend diplomatic and commercial relations with the Nicaraguan Government and recalled its diplomatic mission for consultations. In light of these serious actions, which violate international law, the Salvadoran Government has presented formal charges before the United Nations and the OAS so that immediate and effective measures will be taken to repudiate these terrorist actions and so the Nicaraguan Government will be diplomatically and politically pressured to stop the aggression it has unleashed against El Salvador, and thus stop a possible conflict of unpredictable dimensions.

How is it possible that at a time like this, when around the world moments of political freedom are being experienced in places like Poland, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, here in El Salvador, because of the FMLN's irrational actions—with Ortega's support—attempts are being made to drown a nation which, despite 10 years of war, is trying to consolidate a democratic process?

The Salvadoran Government and people are united during this historic test to achieve peace within the democratic system.

Official Says 'No Possibility' of New Offensive

PA2911042789 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0250 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda has said that the Armed Forces structure remains intact and that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists have no possibility of launching another offensive. Col Zepeda said that the communist's indiscriminate attack was launched against the civilian population and not against the military. According to the military chief, the terrorists were trying to encourage an uprising among the people; however, they failed in their attempt because the people turned their backs on them and gave their support to the Armed Forces. Col Zepeda said that the support of the people for the Armed Forces has been essential and very important in neutralizing the FMLN's communist attack. The deputy defense minister said that thanks to this total support, the Armed Forces have been able to locate a lot of weapons and ammunition. Col Zepeda mentioned the Altos de la Cueva case in San Miguel, where approximately a million rounds of ammunition were found. Zepeda called on the people to maintain their trust in the Armed Forces, adding that the Armed Forces' morale is high, very high.

Rumors on New Offensive

PA2811223189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1632 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Several observers of the Salvadoran conflict have asserted that the Salvadoran guerrillas may unleash a new military offensive with "more sophisticated" weapons, 17 days after having taken the war to the capital.

Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the Army General Staff, said on 27 November that there are some rebel "redoubts" left in the capital, and he did not rule out the possibility that the guerrillas are "reorganizing to try to resume the armed aggression."

Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, has expressed concern and doubts, "because the apparent calm may just be a pause preceding new days of inhuman suffering."

The concern expressed by Ponce and Bishop Rosa Chavez is in addition to growing rumors in San Salvador about a new offensive of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

According to these reports, which stem from the most diverse sectors, the idea about the offensive is related to the seizure, during the last few days, of large caches of weapons that have not been used by the FMLN since 11 November, when the large-scale fighting began. The reports have been denied by the Armed Forces Press Committee, which said that these rumors have been "created by sectors linked to the terrorists and are intended to frighten the population."

The clandestine Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, said in a broadcast today that San Salvador "is strategically under siege, and this has forced the Army to leave important positions in the countryside to concentrate on the defense of the capital." The rebel station said that the offensive that began on 11 November "has not ended, tends to be definitive, and is aimed at placing the rebels on an equal footing with the government headed by Alfredo Cristiani."

Most analysts feel that if a new offensive begins, weapons capable of wreaking more death and destruction, not only among the fighters but also among the civilian population, would be used.

Salvadoran Defense Minister General Humberto Larios has warned that if the guerrillas obtain SAM-7 ground-to-air missiles like the ones discovered in a light plane that presumably came from Nicaragua, "the level of the war would increase."

The FMLN did not use ground-to-air missiles during its recent offensive, despite the massive intervention by the Salvadoran Air Force, which heavily pounded rebel positions. Shortly before launching their offensive, the FMLN "commanders" told a group of reporters that the guerrillas could obtain missiles from the Nicaraguan contras, but that they had decided not to use them because "this would expand the war in El Salvador to higher levels."

Col Ponce has charged during the last few months that the guerrillas already have these weapons.

Following the seizure of the light plane with a real arsenal on 25 November, an Air Force spokesman said that the Army is prepared "in case the guerrillas use missiles." According to the Army, the light plane came from Nicaragua and was piloted by Sandinist soldiers. This led to the suspension of relations with the Managua government and triggered an international crisis.

Simultaneously, fighting between the Army and the guerrillas resumed in some of the capital's districts, but to a lesser degree than at the beginning of the rebel offensive. According to data from the Salvadoran Armed Forces, the heavy fighting with the Army since 11 November has left over 2,000 people dead, thousands wounded, and incalculable economic losses.

The Army has stepped up surveillance throughout the capital and constantly carries out searches for guerrilla weapons. At the same time, it is fighting—both by land and air—alleged rebel columns on the slopes of San Salvador volcano. According to the Army, it has seized substantial quantities of weapons, particularly AK-47 and M-16 rifles, grenade launchers, and large quantities of ammunition and explosives.

Dozens of alleged guerrilla collaborators, who include U.S. and Italian citizens, have been arrested.

Brigade Chief on Control of San Miguel Area

PA2811214489 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Report on interview with Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, 3d Infantry Brigade commander, by Violeta Polanco; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Polanco] Salvadoran Colonel Mauricio Vargas, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, has said that San Miguel city is now under Armed Forces control.

Armed clashes between Salvadoran Army members and FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] rebels have continued during the last few days as a result of the FMLN counteroffensive in various parts of the country.

Col Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, 3d Infantry Brigade commander, said the Armed Forces have San Miguel Department under control.

[Vargas] "The Armed Forces are carrying out their operations and have stabilized the situation in San Miguel City and its outskirts, although at present we are still fighting in rural outskirts and in some nearby municipalities and cantons. To be more specific, we are fighting in the areas of Uluazapa and Comacaran, eastern San Miguel Department, western La Union Department, and southern Morazan Department.

"There is a concentration of rebels in those areas and that is why we are trying to provide security and stability to the those areas."

[Polanco] Col Vargas said the rebels' counteroffensive failed because it never had the people's support. Col Vargas added that the FMLN's military actions have been isolated.

As for the cease-fire proposed by the rebels and the possibilities of a dialogue, Vargas stated that from the very beginning the government gave proof of its goodwill, but that the FMLN has only used the government for its own strategies.

[Vargas] "I do believe we must sit down and talk with the FMLN, but we have to talk seriously. We cannot sit down to talk while they hold exclusively tactical positions. And we have already stated that those are tactical positions. We must reiterate this, because the people have to be aware of this.

"The FMLN sits down in Costa Rica and talks about peace, indiscriminate bombings, the system, the aggression, unfulfilled needs, death squads at the dialogue table. In this way, the FMLN adopts euphemistic positions, but does not really want a cease-fire. But the reasons why the FMLN does not want a cease-fire are not the problems it presents at the negotiations.

"Thus, we must tell the people that the FMLN presents imaginary and real causes. The imaginary causes are the points we mentioned before, but the real reason for not wanting a cease-fire is the aggression they had prepared against the people and the system in general."

[Polanco] Vargas added that the Armed Forces cannot talk with the rebels directly, because the Armed Forces are part of the government.

[Vargas] "The Armed Forces are part of a constitutional government. The Armed Forces belong to the Salvadoran people. The Armed Forces receive orders from the nation's political leader. We cannot negotiate anything with anybody on our own.

"The nation's political leader can ask for our cooperation, contribution, advice, or participation as an institution. The executive branch is the whole, and we are part of the whole."

[Polanco] Finally, Col Vargas presented an assessment on the Army and the rebel casualties. Vargas said that thus far, 84 soldiers have been killed and 200 wounded; 373 guerrillas have been killed and 211 have been wounded and arrested. Of those 211 wounded rebels, 37 are receiving medical care at the Health Ministry regional hospital.

People Urged To Form Neighborhood Watch Groups

PA2911011089 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 0023 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces; date and place not given]

[Text] In the face of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorist aggression unleashed against Salvadorans, it is important that you begin to organize in your neighborhood aid committees. For example, a committee to help sick and injured, one for evacuating residences if required, and one to distribute goods and medicines.

Remember that to save the place you live, each citizen should help out as follows:

1. If you see suspicious persons around your home, immediately alert your nearest military or security unit, or telephone 123.

2. If you see suspicious objects such as bags, packages, cars, trucks, or trailers which you have never seen before in your neighborhood and which remain parked a long time, call immediately.

3. If you see an empty house that is visited sporadically, report it so as to ensure your security.

4. Discuss with your neighbors steps that should be taken in case of a terrorist attack.

This is the only way we can rid our country of FMLN communists!

FMLN Communique to Coffee Growers, Laborers

PA2811231989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1844 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador on 27 November]

[Text] The FMLN informs the laborers working during the current coffee growing season and the coffee growers of the following:

1. Our forces' offensive has initiated strategic sieges around the country's main cities, putting the Armed Forces on the defensive and causing them to abandon extensive rural areas all over the country.

2. Coffee growers must comply with paying laborers the established wages. We warn the coffee growers that, at this moment, they have no Army protection.

3. Laborers should organize to ensure compliance of their wage scale. They should exercise their full power against those coffee growers who refuse. In rural areas, the only existing authority is the peasants and the FMLN. FMLN weapons shall back the laborer's actions.

FMLN, El Salvador, 27 November 1989

Rebels Say Air Force Fired on Poor Neighborhood

PA2811220089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2025 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] We have received the following report from San Salvador: At 0400 today, Salvadoran Air Force helicopters fired rockets at the civilian population of El Carmen neighborhood. Four persons have been seriously injured. Among the injured is Jorge Alberto Bonilla Navarro, a 42-year-old man. That is the report we have received from San Salvador.

This proves that, contrary to what happened in Escalon neighborhood, the Air Force is again opening fire on the civilian population in the low-income sectors of the city. We call on the international community to denounce this criminal action being launched by the Salvadoran Air Force in San Salvador.

FMLN General Command Communique on Cease-Fire

PA2811170789 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador 1600 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command in San Salvador on 27 November—monitored in progress]

[Text] ...lessening the tension overwhelming your government by refusing to agree to the cease-fire with international supervision to start negotiations, proposed by the FMLN, which expresses the desire of the international community.

3. Seeking to avoid its responsibility by not fulfilling the Esquipulas II agreements which include a commitment to have democratization, a cease-fire, and national reconciliation. This, along with the break in relations with Nicaragua is a harsh blow to the regional peace agreements.

We ratify our total willingness to have a cease-fire with international supervision, and to attain a negotiated solution—through a concerted national effort—to have firm and long-lasting peace in El Salvador.

[Signed] FMLN General Command: Commanders Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Jorge Shafick Handal, Eduardo Sancho, Francisco Jovel, and Joaquin Villalobos.

Seized Weapons Displayed by Belloso Battalion

PA2911031589 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0217 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] The Juan Ramon Belloso Battalion has shown the weapons seized from terrorist groups since the beginning of the genocide they launched against the people. The Juan Ramon Belloso Battalion displayed 84 rifles. Among the weapons displayed are 35 AK-47 rifles, 12 M-16's, 24 AR-15's, 5 G-3's, 2 Dragunovs, 1 MPK machine gun, 2 M-14 rifles, and 1 90-mm recoilless rifle. The soldiers also seized 13 RPG-7 and RPG-18 grenade launchers and many grenades for the weapons, as well as a large amount of explosives. These weapons, most of which are Soviet-made, have been seized by the Juan Ramon Belloso Immediate Deployment Battalion since 11 November, the day when the foiled FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] offensive was launched.

Colonel Orlando Carranza, commander of Juan Ramon Belloso Battalion, said that these weapons were seized from the terrorists during the clashes and searches in various areas of San Salvador. Some of the weapons were also seized as a result of reports made by civilians.

[Begin Carranza recording] At this time we are in the area of Soyapango, slightly north of Soyapango. Since 11 November, the battalion has been in the areas of Ciudad Merliot, Antiguo Cuscatlan, El Espino farm, El [word indistinct], Metropolis neighborhood, Satelite neighborhood, Zacamil, Soyapango, and Guadalupe neighborhoods. All these have been combat areas for the Belloso Battalion.

These weapons have been seized in various clashes throughout the city since 11 November. We have also seized weapons following information provided by the civilian population. During this offensive, the civilian population has cooperated with the Army. With its cooperation, the civilian population has proven that it does not want the FMLN's communism here. [end recording]

Col Carranza also said the rebels have suffered 115 dead and 4 captured. He added that 22 Belloso Battalion soldiers have died. Col Carranza also called on the people to continue advising the appropriate authorities if they see weapons or other suspicious objects.

[Begin Carranza recording] I hereby call on the people to continue cooperating as they have done up to now. We ask that they continue to provide us with information regarding places where weapons, explosives, and ammunition may be stashed away. This is very important. There are still hidden weapons. In addition to contributing to the total defeat of the FMLN, civilians who provide us with information regarding hidden weapons, explosives, and ammunition will receive a cash reward. [end recording]

In conclusion, the military commander said that his soldiers will continue to patrol those areas under the battalion's responsiblity in an attempt to neutralize any terrorist action against the Salvadoran people.

Honduras

Azcona Supports Central American Summit

PY2911002489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2325 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Nov (EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona today expressed his agreement with calling a "summit" of Central American presidents to evaluate the tension that has been created by the suspension of diplomatic relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Azcona stated that he had discussed this topic during the past few hours with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, to whom he said: "I guarantee my willingness to meet with the region's chiefs of state to seek peace."

The Honduran president said he would attend that summit "wherever it may be held and when it is called," although he made it a condition that Rafael Leonardo Callejas, the winner of the 26 November presidential elections, accompany him.

The conservative Callejas, of the National Party, will assume the country's Presidency on 27 January 1990.

The "summit" of Central American presidents that was scheduled to take place in December in Managua has been aborted because of the break in relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua, which was announced on 26 November.

Cristiani stressed that he will not participate in any meeting that has Nicaragua as a seat, because it is his belief that the Sandinist government supports the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrillas.

President-Elect Callejas Holds News Conference

PA2811165489 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1250 GMT 28 Nov 89

[News conference by Rafael Leonardo Callejas, president-elect of Honduras, with unidentified reporters on 27 November; place not given—broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Callejas] ...for the organization of the National Party of Honduras [PNH]. This is a clear example of how a political institution should be managed. To mention names would be [words indistinct] disrespect efforts by thousands. However, organization was a key factor for the electoral triumph. Second, our work was intense. I am aware the Honduran people have recognized this very special effort. I had the great luck of sharing many moments with Hondurans in over 1,500 [5-second break in reception] rapproachment during a difficult and lengthy task.

At this time, we in the PNH are preparing for the important decisions we will have to make, beginning on 6 December, to prepare for the transition of power on 27 January. I feel very happy and proud of the PNH, and very grateful toward the Honduran people.

[Reporter] Mr Callejas, there is an issue of great interest that you mentioned last night. Does the concerted national effort also imply political pacts and political agreements or is it based on those established by the Constitution and on the problems the country is facing?

[Callejas] When we talk about a concerted effort we are referring to [10 second break in reception] sectors of society. We are not talking about a dialogue among political parties. We are taking about a dialogue with the people—workers, peasants, businessmen, professionals. We will soon meet; this is an urgent matter. The Honduran people have given me a clear mandate to govern, and have sent me a message: They want peace, unity, and calm to prevail in the country. Therefore, in accordance with that mandate, we will arrange a meeting over the next few days, after we solve administrative matters, that must be solved over the short term such as the team that will work with government officials during the transition of power, to thoroughly know the budget that should be approved on 5 December. Then, we will start calling on various sectors in the country to try to find through those efforts the [words indistinct] in our electoral campaign.

[Reporter] Regarding the [words indistinct] vote margin [passage indistinct]?

[Callejas] Thus far, we are talking about 69-70 deputies. The most recent media reports also indicate we are likely to win in Yoro Department. [5-second break in reception] This shows the nation's true mandate to govern. However, this does not mean we are not going to attain integration as the Constitution establishes. We will propose several alternatives in due time. The Cabinet, the board of directors of the congress, and the constitutional amendments we want to implement—dealing with the judicial system—will be the result of concerted efforts. We have been studying proposals by various sectors, such as the bar association, and we think it is important to have a feasible judicial system that respects the judicial career and a system that extends the terms of court magistrates. In other words, we want the judicial branch to have true and absolute independence as the fundamental base for Honduran democracy.

[Reporter] What is your position as president-elect toward international financial organizations, for example the IMF, which have tried to bring Honduras to its knees?

[Callejas] First, we must hold a dialogue with the current government to get a thorough knowledge of the status of the negotiations or talks with the various organizations, such as the IMF, AID, the World Bank, and Japan, because there is a critical date—30 November. We want thorough knowledge of the effects of the government decision in this regard.

[Reporter] During your political campaign, you made various promises. One of the promises that worries us is that you promised not to devalue the currency. However, taking into account the reality and the IMF, do you maintain your position?

[Callejas] Of course. The devaluation of the currency is not an alternative for the Honduran people. The lempira is already depreciated. However, there is no formal, legal, or monetary policy to devalue the currency, which is important because this keeps the exchange rate at two lempiras to a dollar for high priority matters such as fuel, national security items, medicines, and so on. We maintain our commitment not to devalue the lempira.

[Reporter] When will you start talks with the various sectors? During your campaign your said that 3 days after winning the elections you would call a meeting designed to integrate the various sectors [words indistinct].

[Callejas] I have already started this effort to some extent. I have taken the liberty of talking to media owners to brief them in this regard. I have already held talks with political leaders from the Honduran Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] and the PINU-SD [Social Democratic Innovation and Unity Party] and we are actively working. Logically, only 1 day has passed since the elections. There is great enthusiasm in the PNH, and I would like to be around the supporters and friends of

the PNH in Tegucigalpa today. If the situation allows, I will visit some towns in the northern part of the country tomorrow to greet and congratulate people for our victory in the most important cities of Honduras. I am still optimistic about San Pedro Sula. We are quickly working on the commitments we have made.

[Reporter] Even though we still do not have official figures, did you ever think you would win by such a wide margin?

[Callejas] We have been a well-organized party. We conducted surveys that told us we would win by 4-9 percent, which means a difference of between 50,000 and 90,000 or 100,000 votes. During the election process, we conducted a (?tracking poll), which is a way of learning the results after citizens vote. We surveyed about 100,000 people on 26 November and forecast the results. Asking people who they had voted for gave us a clear picture of what would happen. This type of information was very beneficial because it allowed us to reorganize our campaign over the past few days. As an example, for 4 straight days we conducted surveys in La Lima Municipality because we knew about the election problems there. We visited with people house by house and at the end, the results were better than expected. Our organization led to the election victory.

[Reporter] Do you have the names of the people who will be members of your cabinet during the next 4 years?

[Callejas] We are working on that as an essential part of our concerted effort. I would like to be able to appoint a government cabinet with the different national groups, based on the criteria established in Article 5 of the Constitution. This means that the transition team the PNH will appoint to organize all the activities from now until 27 January must give us its opinions on which distinguished Hondurans, not necessarily from the PNH, can participate in our administration.

[Reporter] How will the security policy be handled, Mr Callejas? How are your relations with the Armed Forces? Are there any direct contacts?

[Callejas] Of course, we have maintained excellent relations and they will remain as such. The position of the PNH during this campaign has been that the Honduran Armed Forces are an important part of the government. We do not share the concept that there is a civilian and a military power. All Hondurans know that the Constitution is the primary legislation that rules the other government bodies.

[Reporter] Mr Callejas, do you agree with closing the Presidency Ministry even though certain decentralized government organizations have said they would not allow this? What is your opinion?

[Callejas] When we discussed some of the legal aspects concerning organization of the public sector, we told public employees that we clearly believed that the Presidency Ministry was not necessary because it brings about social costs for the country. There were certain things we could share, but others we could not. Our position is that we have to modernize the public sectors and that institutions such as the Presidency Ministry are not needed in Honduras.

[Reporter] In one of your visits to Tegucigalpa, you said that if you won the Presidency, the Tegucigalpa mayor's office would have enormous support. What can Tegucigalpa residents expect from your administration and from the mayor's office?

[Callejas] They can expect tremendous support, as can other Honduran mayors' offices. I believe this legislative assembly can approve the law on municipalities. This law allows municipalities to receive up to 5 percent of tax revenues. It cannot be done right away, of course, because the 5 percent would seriously affect the government. We believe the autonomy of municipalities is important and we are willing to do several things. First, we agree to approve the law on municipalities; second, to provide them economic support; and third, to consider election reform that would allow citizens to vote for mayors separately.

[Reporter] Mr Callejas, the Honduran people gave you an absolute majority in the National Congress. They gave you absolute power. Having achieved this, you can decide how to rule the country. Are you going to rule with a strong hand and with the absolute power given to you by the Honduran voters or are you really going to work for a national concensus?

[Callejas] You and the Honduran people know me well. I am not in any way an authoritarian person; my chief virtue is prudence. In this respect, that is how the next presidential period will be: open to dialogue and concerted efforts. I do not want a government of conflicts, but a government of concerted efforts. I do not want a government to manage crises, but a government that avoids crisis. It will be a very open government. The next presidential period will be mobile, transparent, greatly accessible, and very active.

[Reporter] What do you mean by mobile?

[Callejas] It means flexible to leave the capital every other week to visit Honduran communities.

[Reporter] Will there be decentralization?

[Callejas] There certainly will be decentralization. These are aspects of the concerted effort. We deem it important to bring opportunities to other areas, cities, and municipalities of the country. In this respect, I want to say that the news media will have a lot of work to do because of me; we will be leaving the capital often.

[Reporter] I have two questions. One is linked to the focus you gave to your campaign—the Honduran crisis. The people's ability to purchase food has been adversely affected. You talked about a million people without jobs and said that you planned to fight this situation. Also,

the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH] is a very important political force in Honduras. Will you request support from the PLH?

[Callejas] The PLH is an important political force in the country. Just as we are holding talks with other organizations, we will also hold talks with PLH sectors willing to participate in the national concerted effort, when circumstances allow and it is politically viable. I am hopeful the PLH will play a positive role as the opposition. Opposition is welcome, but it is important to face two major problems—the million people out of jobs and the high and rising cost of living. That is why we must adopt adjustment measures, because the only way to solve the crisis is to have a productive and strong economy. We cannot attempt to solve our problems with the current fragile economy. That means sharing with them and with other sectors participating in the concerted effort the alternatives the PNH has proposed throughout the campaign.

[Reporter] Mr Callejas, besides the opposition you will have from the PLH, do you realize you will also have opposition from the people because of the crisis? There are crises of values, the economy, and unemployment, as well as a host of other things that are going on in our country. How do you envision a better future for Honduras now?

[Callejas] The people supported me with their votes. I do not feel there is opposition from the people; otherwise, I would not have won the elections. The people are aware of the crisis and hope that we will manage the government to lessen the country's enormous problems. All of us know Honduras is experiencing one of its most difficult moments. It is important to be well-informed and to make clear decisions to solve the very hard circumstances that affect the country.

[Reporter] It is said that lawyer Mario Rivera Lopez is happier than you because he beat [Former Honduran President Roberto] Suazo Cordova.

[Callejas] [Laughs] I think this is really the most pleasant surprise of the campaign. No one believed lawyer Rivera Lopez could win La Paz Department. He made the extraordinary decision, with our backing, to go to La Paz. He did it to meet Suazo Cordova head on. Two political foxes came head to head in La Paz and the blue fox won.

[Reporter] On 23 November, we talked with Mr John [name indistinct] of AID, and he told us something that we find it particularly worrisome. AID has a plan for Honduras, scheduled for March, that it wanted to impose on this administration, but the Azcona administration turned it down. According to [words indistinct] it entails big sacrifices for the people.

[Callejas] I am not aware of it. I would have to talk to AID to learn what the requirements are. I do not know of any AID plan for Honduras. Our concern is to continue receiving backing because the country's economic situation is very complex, calling for and demanding a positive flow of foreign exchange, and that means AID is a primary source of support now and for the new government.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] in case there is no understanding. You know [words indistinct] 30 November to reach an understanding with the IMF. Do you have any idea of what you will do when you take office as president [words indistinct]?

[Callejas] I sure do, but if we do not start talking until I take office on 27 January, it will be too late. The decision, or at least an opening to reach an understanding and to seek talks with AID and international organizations, must begin now. That is why we are concerned about President's Azcona's goodwill.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] to participate in the talks and later pulled out?

[Callejas] True, that happened last year when the Central Bank president said the Central Bank was not committed to facing that problem. In this respect, we will talk again with the Central Bank and other organizations to learn first hand the true scope of the crisis and see what short-term alternatives they propose.

[Reporter] Do you plan to govern with the country's best men and women or with the people who supported you?

[Callejas] We will govern by the will expressed by the people at the polls. This means that it will be a government that will respond to the people's interests. We do not have absolute power in the structuring of the Cabinet. We will seek the best men and women, naturally giving preference to the PNH. However this is not a limiting factor in the formation of the next cabinet. As you know, I have asked two prominent citizens to join me in the government: Efrain Diaz Arrivillaga and Enrique Aguilar Paz Cerrato. I will talk to them before the end of this month to see if they intend to join me in the government structure.

[Reporter] Where do you plan to place Enrique Diaz Arrivillaga and Enrique Aguilar Paz?

[Callejas] I will speak to them first.

[Reporter] One of the criticisms made of current President Jose Azcona Hoyo is that he has been very good to his friends. How will that affect your administration? Are you very good to your friends?

[Callejas] I am very good to my friends, but that does not necessarily mean that my friends will be in the administration. [reporters laugh]

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Rafael Leonardo Callejas.

Honduras

Azcona Supports Central American Summit

PY2911002489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2325 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Nov (EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona today expressed his agreement with calling a "summit" of Central American presidents to evaluate the tension that has been created by the suspension of diplomatic relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua.

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President-Elect Callejas Holds News Conference

PA2811165489 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1250 GMT 28 Nov 89

[News conference by Rafael Leonardo Callejas, president-elect of Honduras, with unidentified reporters on 27 November; place not given—broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Callejas] ...for the organization of the National Party of Honduras [PNH]. This is a clear example of how a political institution should be managed. To mention names would be [words indistinct] disrespect efforts by thousands. However, organization was a key factor for the electoral triumph. Second, our work was intense. I am aware the Honduran people have recognized this very special effort. I had the great luck of sharing many moments with Hondurans in over 1,500 [5-second break in reception] rapproachment during a difficult and lengthy task.

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[Reporter] Mr Callejas, there is an issue of great interest that you mentioned last night. Does the concerted national effort also imply political pacts and political agreements or is it based on those established by the Constitution and on the problems the country is facing?

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[Callejas] We will govern by the will expressed by the people at the polls. This means that it will be a government that will respond to the people's interests. We do not have absolute power in the structuring of the Cabinet. We will seek the best men and women, naturally giving preference to the PNH. However this is not a limiting factor in the formation of the next cabinet. As you know, I have asked two prominent citizens to join me in the government: Efrain Diaz Arrivillaga and

Enrique Aguilar Paz Cerrato. I will talk to them before the end of this month to see if they intend to join me in the government structure.

[Reporter] Where do you plan to place Enrique Diaz Arrivillaga and Enrique Aguilar Paz?

[Callejas] I will speak to them first.

[Reporter] One of the criticisms made of current President Jose Azcona Hoyo is that he has been very good to his friends. How will that affect your administration? Are you very good to your friends?

[Callejas] I am very good to my friends, but that does not necessarily mean that my friends will be in the administration. [reporters laugh]

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Rafael Leonardo Callejas.

Nicaragua

Minister Asks Cristiani To Reconsider Relations Cut

PA2811224389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1615 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 28 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Defense Minister Humberto Ortega today tried to persuade Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani "not to adopt a radical position" and to reconsider his decision to break diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

On 26 November, Cristiani announced the break of all relations, including diplomatic relations, with Nicaragua. The announcement came following the discovery of a plane that had crashed in Salvadoran territory. The plane, which was transporting weapons for the Salvadoran guerrillas, supposedly had come from Nicaragua.

In a speech delivered 27 November in front of the Monument for the Soldiers of the Fatherland, in this capital, General Ortega said that what Cristiani announced has not been made "official" yet, and that he hopes that the Salvadoran president will reconsider his decision.

General Ortega, who is President Daniel Ortega's brother, stated: "So far, this is only a political statement." He noted: "At moments such as this, healthy judgment must prevail." He regretted that rightist sectors are stirring up war in the region."

Ortega To 'Defend' Managua as Area Summit Site

PA2911042489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0257 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Santa Teresa, Nicaragua, 28 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said today that he will defend Managua as the site of the "summit" as agreed at the previous summit in Tela (Honduras).

Ortega said that the government will fight for the Central American presidents to meet in Managua and discuss the demobilization of the "contras" stationed in Honduras and the status of human rights in the area, particularly in El Salvador.

In a speech in the town of Santa Teresa (Carazo), 52 km southeast of Nicaragua [as received], the Nicaraguan head of state emphasized that the Sandinists "are going to fight for the fulfillment of the regional peace agreement."

We, the Central American presidents, "must discuss respect for human rights in El Salvador and get the contras out of Honduras," at the summit scheduled for 8-9 December, Ortega stressed.

Alluding to El Salvador's announcement 26 November that it was suspending relations with Nicaragua, Ortega said that he did not do the same when U.S. pilot Eugene Hasenfus—who was captured in Nicaragua in October 1987 after his plane was shot down in Nicaraguan territory—made charges that his base was at Ilopango Airport in El Salvador. Ortega said that the charges raised by Hasenfus, who was pardoned and released 4 months later, did not lead Nicaragua to break relations with El Salvador.

El Salvador announced the break in diplomatic and commercial relations with Nicaragua after it found in its territory a crashed plane loaded with weapons for the guerrillas which supposedly were from Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan president added that Nicaragua has not broken off relations with Honduras, although its government lends the contras its territory for them "to attack" the revolution. And Nicaragua has not broken relations with the United States either, even though it has supplied surface-to-air missiles to the contras, Ortega said.

Panama

Officer Reports on More U.S. Troop Movements

PA2811235689 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2311 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, Panamanian member of the Combined Board, has said that incidents with U.S. troops in civilian areas are increasing.

[Begin Sieiro recording] Today, U.S. troops tried to enter Arraijan and Burunga with their armored personnel carriers. This is an absurd move. They know that today the Panamanian people are celebrating a national holiday, a sacred day for the Panamanian people, and that the people are driving to Chorrera, where the celebration is being held.

We have done all that we can do as established in the treaties. We have tried to abide by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties; however, they do not respect the treaties. They hold maneuvers in Arraijan with sophisticated weapons,

and we are advised only 10 minutes before these are held. The treaties state that we must be advised 24 hours rather than 10 minutes in advance. We try to react timely and express our discontent, but they do not understand. They presently do not understand. [end recording]

'Dignity Parade' in Ancon Marks Independence

PA2911005289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2307 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Today's parade, organized by the Ancon Corregimiento Community Board to mark another anniversary of Panama's independence from Spain, has been described as a dignity parade. Government officials; Panama Defense Forces [FDP], Dignity Battalions, and CODEPADI [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity] representatives; and folklore groups, participated in the event.

The dignity parade was held in Balboa. High-ranking government officials, FDP representatives, and the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] leadership headed the parade that began at Amelia Dennis de Icaza Park across from the Ancon Post Office and ended at Fort Amador, where the late General Omar Torrijos Herrera's mausoleum is located. The marchers paraded through Balboa in an orderly manner.

During the parade, PRD President Carlos Duque made the following statement:

[Begin Duque recording] This is a symbolic demonstration. It is the first time that a 28 November parade, a national holiday, has been held in reverted areas: 168 years ago, Panamanians walked the cobblestoned streets of Chorrera, Panama City, and Los Santos; today, Panamanians are walking these streets. These are our streets; this is our territory. [end recording]

Carlos Duque also talked about the tense relations between Panama and the United States:

[Begin Duque recording] The Bush administration is making one mistake after another. The Bush administration will soon be celebrating its 1st year in office, and it has not made a single correct move in the international field. I once told you that, concerning Panama, they must admit that mistakes have been made, and they must stop interferring in Panama and Latin America. Proof that the U.S. policy has failed is evident in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The Esquipulas and Tela agreements are not being fulfilled exactly because of U.S. interference and arrogance.

I believe the Panamanian people are showing the world that we are a worthy people and that we are willing to fight to the end and give our lives if necessary. [end recording]

Commerce Minister on Agreements With USSR

PA2911012689 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Commerce and Industries Minister Elmo Martinez Blanco has said that independence from the traditional markets will be achieved with the commercial agreements signed with the USSR.

[Begin Martinez recording] These agreements are aimed at improving our situation as a center of services, a neutral country. They will also prepare us for assuming total responsibilty of the canal in the year 2000; it will prepare us for assuming the responsibilty with dignity and the economic capacity that total independence gives us. To a certain degree, we will be removing ourselves from our total dependency on one market and one supply source. In general terms, that is what we are doing right now. Naturally, we are also interested in mining, oil exploration, and the small enterprises we hope to strengthen with certain mechanisms. We are very interested in promoting fishing activities. We are attempting to create a national institute for fishing development, a plan we also want to strengthen with foreign aid. This is all part of one same plan. We are very interested in making Panama a port center. This is very important. We are already talking about improving the railroad system and the Balboa and Cristobal ports. This is all part of a whole plan aimed at preparing ourselves for the year 2000. [end recording]

Columnist Favors Exile, Prison for Opposition

PA2811134489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Nov 89 p 9

[From the "Hard Line" column by Alberto Barrera]

[Text] Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford are like scared mice: After trying to gnaw at the homeland's dignity, they have hidden in the mouse hole of their White House boss.

They tried to pit the Panamanian people against the leaders of this revolutionary process and our Defense Forces, and the reply they received was the people's scorn—through the courageous and patriotic Dignity Battalions and CODEPADI's [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity], which are composed of humble men and women who do not come from the aristocratic neighborhoods of the capital but from Chorrillo, San Miguelito, Curundu, Calidonia, and other humble communities throughout our national territory. This human contingent, far from being intimidated by the U.S. Southern Command's armored personnel carriers, increases its patriotic fervor and strengthens its battle cries: My Life for Panama; Spurn George Bush; and Not a Single Step Backwards.

The new republic, presided over by Engineer Francisco Rodriguez Poveda in his role as provisional president, and its war laws currently are intended for our national liberation.

However, it is authentic liberation that requires an urgent purge in some government agencies, where seditious persons are unfortunately embedded—sucking off the state's funds and lending themselves to many various machinations against their homeland.

The government tree must be shaken harder to make the traitors fall.

One cannot go around with half measures at a time when the northern colossus announces, without qualms, assassination plans and more economic pressures.

It is necessary to send the enemies who plot against this revolutionary process into exile or to trial—above all the leaders who constantly travel abroad to spread disinformation about Panama's situation and to receive instructions and money for disrupting the peace and tranquillity prevailing in our native land.

We believe the solution is exile or prison for the traitors. Thus we will manage to safeguard our peace, which the seditious people who follow Bush's alienating and criminal policy are trying to undermine.

Argentina

Menem Accepts FMLN Proposal To Mediate

PY2811234989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2305 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has accepted a proposal from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to mediate in the Salvadoran conflict. For the past 15 years, the Salvadoran Government has waged an intense war, which has already claimed more than 70,000 lives, against this leftist organization.

As part of the mediation effort, the Argentine president will ask Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani to declare a cease fire and to engage in a dialogue with the FMLN after an in situ inspection by a UN delegation.

During a press conference granted to TELAM, Miguel Angel Saenz Varela, a member of the FMLN's economic-political committee, said that Menem "offered his cooperation to settle those military conflicts that can be ended through a peaceful solution" and promised to urge Cristiani to declare a cease fire.

Saenz Varela, who met with Menem on two occasions during the president's 2-day visit to El Salvador, stressed that Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez "also offered to mediate," adding that the EEC has "proposed a cease-fire and a discussion of the conflict at the United Nations."

He reiterated that "as a proposal to end the conflict, the FMLN proposes a cease fire and the beginning of a negotiated political process that will be implemented in stages and that will conclude with the cessation of hostilities and with the laying down of weapons" by the guerrilla organization, which wants to join Salvadoran society as a political party.

He said that the Salvadoran Government "has systematically refused to accept this proposal, demanding that the FMLN declare the cessation of hostilities. We will never do this because that would be like surrendering. We are not willing to lay down our arms before a concerted solution is guaranteed"

Saenz Varela will continue his tour through Brazil, Peru, and Mexico to disclose the FMLN position. He asserted that "if a negotiated outcome is not achieved the FMLN will continue the war to the end" and demanded "the resignation of the Army leadership and the disbanding of the death squads formed by non-governmental agents."

When asked who grants economic support to the guerrillas, Saenz Varela denied that it came from the Soviet Union and explained that financial aid came from northern countries such as Sweden, Denmark, and the GDR, and added that "although you may not believe this, we get significant aid from U.S. citizens."

Regarding the recent attack against the Sheraton Hotel in downtown San Salvador, he said that "it was just to show that our organization is not weak, as the government maintains, but that it is still able to continue the war" and noted that the attack "would have not been perpetrated had negotiations been resumed."

Saenz Varela said that "now nobody in the country doubts that the FMLN is a real capable and powerful force. We are part of the power, which is something the United States refuses to admit. Through the shipment of weapons and by granting financial aid, the United States hoped to squash a sector that it will not be able to dismantle.

When asked about the FMLN's idea of how the world should be, he said that "there is no longer a world divided into capitalism and socialism. The world is now interconnected, interdependent, with other alternatives, such as ours, to search for a unique model based on the historical needs of our country."

He added: "Moreover, we propose a government with a broad participation, where all the political forces of the country are represented, because if we deny this we would remain isolated, and no one support us under the pretext that we are Marxists."

Saenz Varela reiterated the FMLN's intention to run in the 1991 elections for departmental mayors, and added that if the solution to the conflict "is not a negotiated solution, providing for the continuity of democracy, the war will last forever."

Menem Comments on Issues After Paraguay Trip

PY2911011289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0004 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (DYN)—President Carlos Menem said today that "he may" act as mediator in the conflict between the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundi Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Menem, who had been invited by the FMLN to act as mediator in the conflict, revealed that today he received a phone call from Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani in Asuncion, Paraguay, inviting him for a round of talks.

Menem said his Foreign Ministry will obtain some information on the positions of the two parties.

Menem also expressed satisfaction with his visit to Paraguay, where he met with his Paraguayan counterpart, Andres Rodriguez. He said that it is necessary to continue working to consolidate the integration process started in the Southern Cone.

He said that Bolivia, Paraguay, and Chile must join the integration process initiated by Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

Menem made these comments at Jorge Newbery Airport upon returning from Asuncion accompanied by Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo and a small entourage.

Menem vigorously condemned international drug trafficking and said that those responsible for the attack on the Avianca plane in Colombia, which caused the death of 107 people, "are criminals who put no limits on their crimes" and "who do not deserve to continue living in a civilized society."

Menem concluded by commenting on the municipal elections held in Rosario, Santa Fe, and San Lorenzo on 26 November, and said that the election returns will have "an essentially local" influence.

He said that it is inappropriate to refer to the returns as a defeat (?of the Justicialist Party). The returns merely show "a consolidation of the democratic process," which allows the other parties to occupy municipal positions.

Menem Confirms Current Economic Objectives

PY2811175789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2106 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Balcarce, 25 Nov (TELAM)—During a short visit to this town in Buenos Aires Province, President Carlos Menem today confirmed his economic policy, stating that "the increase in the dollar price will not change our economic policy, which has already been outlined." He added that "tax evaders will be severely punished."

Menem said that "Argentina has decided to fully support production and stabilize the economy. This production-based economic stability will mean that the dollar issue, which seeks to create speculation, will gradually cease to be a concern for we Argentines."

The president arrived in Balcarce at 1230 in a special presidential microbus, accompanied by Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero, Balcarce Mayor Victor Baez, and officials of the presidency. Menem came from Mar del Plata, where he arrived at 1100 aboard the presidential private plane.

In a news conference, President Menem stated: "That black market dollar, or unlawful dollar as I have called it, has been totally over evaluated. It is the result of maneuvers to which we have been accustomed by people or businessmen who think more of themselves than of those of the nation. This will not last very long."

From Mar del Plata, the long motorcade followed the presidential delegation along Route 226. Many people along the road waved handkerchiefs, Argentine flags, and Justicialist party symbols to the president. [passage omitted]

Menem Reportedly To Disband Intelligence Agency

PY2811203989 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 28 Nov

[Excerpt] President Carlos Menem has reportedly decided to disband the Secretariat for State Intelligence [SIDE]. According to the newspaper PAGINA 12, the presidential decision is reportedly based on his dissatisfaction over SIDE's performance. A new organization, subordinate to the Interior Ministry, reportedly will be created.

Reporter Silvina Martinez Porta will give us further details on this matter from Government House:

[Begin Martinez Porta recording] There is absolute secrecy on this matter here at Government House. In some government offices, especially at the Interior Ministry, it is almost certain, however, that SIDE will become subordinate to the Interior Ministry. It has been revealed that [former Interior Minister] Eduardo Bauza has already made the decision and has already informed some government advisers.

In the presidential sector, however, the idea is quite different. Some officials close to President Menem feel that SIDE, as it is currently structured, is too big an organization and its results are not very accurate. Most officials feel that placing the SIDE under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry will not be feasible, because if SIDE continues, it must be directly responsible to the president. [passage omitted] [end recording]

YPF Conflict With Union Reportedly Overcome

PY2811221989 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpt] YPF [Government Oil Deposits] trustee Octavio Frigerio reported very early this morning through Radio Nacional that the conflict between the YPF and the Federation of the United Trade Union of State Petroleum Workers [SUPE] has been overcome.

Both sides have agreed on a 16-percent salary increase for the October-March period. Frigerio also reported that the strike announced by the union has been suspended. The salary agreement was signed by SUPE and the YPF at noon today. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

President Receives Colombian M-19 Representative

PY2811170189 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has been invited by the Colombian M-19 Movement to attend the ceremony on 19 December at which the guerrillas will lay down their weapons and will return to democratic life.

(Dario Villamisar), a representative of the M-19 National Board and International Relations Commission, was received yesterday by President Paz Zamora at the government palace. (Villamisar) is currently visiting Latin American presidents to explain why they have decided to lay down their weapons after 15 years of armed struggle and return to democratic and constitutional life.

After the meeting with President Paz Zamora, official government spokesman (Monfredo Kent) stated that the Bolivian president stressed the importance of the M-19 Movement decision. The spokesman stated that Paz Zamora will consider accepting the invitation to attend the ceremony in Bogota on 19 December.

[Begin (Kent) recording] The president will visit Galapagos [passage indistinct]. President Paz Zamora has expressed his satisfaction over the M-19 decision. Regarding the invitation extended to him, the president said that he will contact Colombian President Virgilio Barco. [end recording]

The Bolivian information minister has stated that, according to protocol, the official invitation to President Paz Zamora must be extended by Colombian President Virgilio Barco.

Speaking to Bolivian reporters at Government House, (Dario Villamisar), the Colombian M-19 representative, has stated that antidemocratic movements should no longer exist in Latin American countries.

The M-19 representative fully explained the reasons that have led this movement to give up the armed struggle and to return to Colombian democratic life. He said that Carlos Pizarro Leon Gomez, the M-19 commander general, will announce tomorrow in Colombia his candidacy for president of the Republic, representing the M-19. He said that this political party will be formed, seeking to gain the support of the people and other party organizations that will participate in the Colombian general elections.

He said that the elections will be held on 19 December, the day on which M-19 members will lay down their weapons in a public ceremony that will be attended by Colombian President Virgilio Barco, some Latin American presidents, and delegations from Socialist International and European armies.

(Villamisar) explained that after 15 years of armed struggle, the M-19 now understands that social changes must be obtained through democratic channels and that this possibility now exists in Colombia. He added that his organization has a concrete and firm position regarding the alarming drug-trafficking problem facing Colombia.

[Begin (Villamisar) recording] We believe that the drug-trafficking problem must be solved, like all other Colombian problems, through dialogue. If we find that we need to talk with all sectors, we will. [end recording]

The M-19 representative added that the decision was made following the Colombian Government's commitment to approve an amnesty law for the former guerrillas and call a plebiscite on 21 January 1990. (Villamisar) said that following the initiative by President Barco's government, the M-19 will lay down its weapons and become a legal political party.

He concluded by saying that Colombia is strengthening its democracy, so there will be no need for any armed organization.

Labor Union Leader Daniel Santalla Released

PY2811181589 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] leader Daniel Santalla was released today. He will resume work tomorrow.

This information was supplied to Radio Panamericana by COB Executive Secretary Victor Lopez Arias, who has been absent from the country for more than 44 days. Lopez Arias went to Sweden, where he attended several meetings sponsored by European trade union organizations. He represented the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mine Workers.

[Begin Lopez Arias recording] Comrade Santalla was released before noon. He was accompanied by comrade [COB Permanent Secretary Oscar] Iturri. They are free. [end recording]

Lopez Arias said that tomorrow, the COB executive board will hold a special meeting to review the conflict involving Bolivian teachers.

Ormachea on Military Drug-Fighting Role

PY2811184789 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] At this moment, the Bolivian Air Force and the Bolivian Navy are directly and comprehensively contributing to operational logistics in the struggle against drug trafficking by transporting UMOPAR [Mobile Units for Rural Areas] forces to areas where they are required.

Defense Minister Hector Ormachea Penaranda said this today while participating in ceremonies to mark the anniversary of the 1st Mechanized Regiment of Tarapaca.

The dignitary said that the Army has not yet been directly involved, but that plans are ready to be implemented as soon as the president of the Republic approves them.

The involvement of the Army constitutes a major step that must be pondered very carefully, because it will not just involve supplying logistic support, the defense minister added.

The defense minister said that the economic resources required will be considerable, because it involves a huge mobilization of very costly equipment.

Hector Ormachea added that the support of other organizations and third countries is required to cover the shortcomings in our country.

[Begin Ormachea recording] We are conducting.... [changes thought] I am still not able to tell you that we have coordinated, but rather that we are negotiating and reconciling criteria with the U.S. Government.

However, we are part of a global struggle against drug trafficking, and a similar task is being conducted by other governments. [end recording]

General Jorge Moreira, the commander-in-chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces, has said that the decision by Captain General Jaime Paz Zamora is awaited before the Army can join the tasks currently being conducted by the Air Force and Navy.

Gen Moreira added: I believe that the president of the Republic will make a decision on this issue after his meeting with the presidents of the United States, Colombia, and Peru that is scheduled for February 1990.

Gen Moreira also discussed the upgrading of the Armed Forces, pointing out that the office of the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces is permanently concerned about this issue.

[Begin Moreira recording] In addition to the budget appropriated for next year, we must obtain more financial resources, including some foreign aid and some agreements, to gradually continue to upgrade the Armed Forces. [end recording]

These were the remarks of General Jorge Moreira, the commander-in-chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces.

Interior Ministry Official Comments on Bombings

PY2811201589 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The Interior Ministry is searching for a group that is trying to create an atmosphere of social unrest in the country, an atmosphere that would hinder the electoral process.

This has been revealed by Raul Loayza, Interior Ministry under secretary for the interior, who announced that Felipe Quispe Huanca is one of those responsible for the dynamite explosions in the city of El Alto on 14 November. Quispe Huanca is now being held at the Interior Ministry offices.

Quispe Huanca was carrying handwritten notes that contained the addresses of sites where explosions had occurred. Residues of black powder, similar to that used in the 14 November attacks, were found in the car [not further specified].

Asked if Quispe Huanca is linked to the Zarate-Willka terrorist group, Loayaza said that this idea has not been completely ruled out, especially after threatening letters have been sent to deputy prefects in La Paz Department.

Paraguay

Argentine President, Rodriguez Sign Declaration

PY2811212689 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 1521 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Joint declaration signed by Argentine President Carlos Menem and Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez at Independence Hall of Government House in Asuncion—live; read by Paraguayan Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Bernardino Hugo Saguier Caballero]

[Text] Joint declaration:

At the invitation of Paraguayan President Division General Andres Rodriguez, the president of the Argentine Republic, Dr Carlos Saul Menem, paid an official visit to Paraguay from 27 to 28 November 1989.

The two presidents expressed their profound satisfaction over the excellent level of dialogue between the two governments, which reflects the strong historical and cultural ties between the peoples of Paraguay and Argentina.

The president of Argentina told the president of Paraguay that the people and government of his country fully share the happiness of the Paraguayan people over the resolute recovery of their democratic lifestyle, which has allowed Paraguay to be reinstated into the community of American nations that struggle to consolidate their liberty, and thereby promote the economic and social growth of their peoples.

The two presidents also agreed to express their satisfaction with the development of detente and cooperation throughout the world.

Aware that this new international environment is renewing the historical need for integration of Latin American nations, they reaffirmed their desire to help strengthen the integration process, because they are aware that it is the most suitable framework for ensuring the peace and development of the Latin American peoples.

The two presidents agreed that democratic governments have been and are decisive factors in promoting Latin American unity, and they expressed their profound satisfaction with the rapid expansion and consolidation of democratic processes in the region, as demonstrated over the past few months by the important elections in neighboring countries.

The two presidents expressed their concern over the serious events in El Salvador, a situation that can seriously affect the Central American peace process. They appeal, therefore, to the conflicting parties to cease hostilities immediately, as a step toward the resumption of negotiations.

Regarding Panama, in compliance with the principles of nonintervention and respect for treaties, the two presidents expressed their desire for an immediate return of the authentic representative democracy in that country, within a framework of respect for human and political rights of the Panamanian people.

After analyzing the main bilateral and regional issues, and convinced that Paraguayan-Argentine cooperation and integration must be fostered—thus promoting continental unity—the two presidents agreed to attach the highest priority to the Parana-Paraguay river system program. Believing that this joint integration effort will open broad possibilities for the River Plate Basin, the presidents decided to support it strongly.

The two presidents decided to reiterate that their governments attach major importance to the construction of the Yacyreta dam according to the existing timetable, so the plant may begin generating power in 1993. The timely completion of this project and the scheduled relocation of towns are essential if Yacyreta is to begin operating on schedule.

The two presidents emphasized the significance of the accord for economic cooperation and for subregional and border integration that was signed today. The objective of the accord is to promote the economic growth of the two nations, to foster subregional and border integration, and to promote the balanced development of subregions and border areas.

The presidents expressed their satisfaction over the efficient and expanding work by the border committees. They expressed their belief that common borders should be areas in which the two nations strengthen their friendship and cooperation. They vowed to approve measures that will facilitate and promote the circulation of people and goods between the nations.

The two presidents stressed the significance of their first business meeting, held in Asuncion on 27 and 28 November. They decided to promote technical-scientific cooperation within the framework of an accord signed in 1974.

The two presidents attached special significance to the signing of the power integration protocol. For the purpose of supplying electric power, the protocol will be implemented through the Guarambare-Clorinda, Encarnacion-Posadas, and Villalbin-Resistencia connections. This will involve a considerable increase in Argentine purchases of Paraguayan power.

The two presidents reaffirmed the importance that promoting trade in oil by-products will have for the economies of the two nations. The two presidents also mentioned the possibility of including crude oil supplies in their bilateral exchange.

The presidents expressed their satisfaction over the signing today of a gas supply contract for the provision of Argentine gas to the Paraguayan market. The contract also includes an offer by Argentina's state gas company to provide gas technology support to Petropar [Paraguayan Petroleum, Inc].

The presidents stressed the major roled played by railway companies in the integration of the two countries. They called upon the authorities of the two countries' air, land, river, and maritime transportation sectors to redouble their efforts to coordinate those services—both for passengers and cargo—taking into account the objectives of integration.

They attached major significance to an accord signed today for controlling drug abuse and repressing the illegal trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances. The enforcement of this accord will permit both countries to increase cooperation in the field, and to coordinate an efficient fight against drug trafficking and other related criminal activities.

The presidents noted that the dedication on 20 July 1989 of Lieutenant General Juan Domingo Peron International Bridge, joining the Paraguayan town of General Bruguez and the Argentine town of General Belgrano, is a promising event that reflects the growing physical integration of the two countries. They expressed their satisfaction with the dedication in the near future of a river crossing facility between Pilar, Paraguay, and Puerto Fotheringam, Argentina that will allow vehicles and persons to travel between Paraguayan towns and Argentine territory.

The presidents expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of a project in the lower Pilcomayo River Basin, and they stressed that they will extend their strongest support for reactivating the Pilcomayo River Basin multiple development project—which will be implemented by Paraguay, Argentina, and Bolivia—and that they remain highly optimistic about the results of this project.

They decided to instruct the Paraguayan-Argentine Mixed Commission for the Parana River, COMIP, to design the technical and legal framework for the Corpus project, taking into account the possibility of building the project under the public works regime and considering the wishes of both governments. The technical and legal framework for the project should be submitted before 30 April 1990.

President Menem reiterated his gratitude to Paraguay for the support that the government of President Andres Rodriguez has extended for Argentina's legitimate sovereign rights over the Malvinas, Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas.

President Rodriguez expressed his satisfaction with the resumption of negotiations between Argentina and Great Britain, expressing the hope that the talks will lead to a just, peaceful, and final settlement of this controversy.

The two presidents attached particular importance and priority to the Alto Parana program, which they decided to

set in motion through the document of Asuncion, which both presidents signed today, convinced that the improvement of navigation in the Parana River between the mouths of the Yguazu River and the Paraguay River will be a decisive factor for promoting regional development.

The presidents expressed their determination to dedicate, in the first quarter of 1990, the international bridge that will join Encarnacion, Paraguay, and Posadas, Argentina, thus opening a major land and railway transportation route between the two countries.

President Menem invited President Rodriguez to pay an official visit to Argentina for the dedication of the Encarnacion-Posadas bridge.

The Paraguayan president gladly accepted the invitation, convinced that the next presidential meeting in Buenos Aires will allow the two countries to promote the bilateral integration process.

Peru

Garcia Discusses Drug Issue at Forum Opening

PY2811193389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Speech by President Alan Garcia at the opening of a forum on terrorism and drug trafficking, sponsored by the Peruvian Press Association, in Lima on 27 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We have made proposals regarding the drug-trafficking issue. We have hailed the remarks by President Bush on this issue. We asked his predecessor, President Reagan, for more deeds and fewer words. We hail with satisfaction what appears to be a commitment. However, we also want this commitment to include an agreement with the countries involved.

We do not accept donations. We do not accept presents in an issue involving shared responsibilities, in an issue in which the true problem is the market and the huge demand for drugs in the industrialized nations. Therefore, if this is the situation—and following the law of marketing—then it is appropriate to reach an agreement on the best way to replace the drug-trafficking economy and the production of coca leaves.

While meeting in the city of Ica, we, the presidents of Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru, agreed on a plan and decided to call on the president of the United States of America after listening to his message.

We are convinced that there must be a solution to the drug-trafficking problem and the coca leaf production problem. The solution cannot be impossible to find. It is not remote. It is a simple solution, if the United States, the EEC, and Japan make a decision. The solution is to make available the necessary funds with which to replace the coca crops.

A hectare of coca leaves yields up to $3,000 per year for the poorest peasants. A hectare of coffee barely yields $800. How can coffee compete with coca if, thanks to the rich countries, coffee prices have dropped 50 percent this year? How do they want us to combat the production of coca leaves if they dump the price of coffee, cocoa, and annatto?

We have asked for economic terms. We must replace this crop, and the cost will not represent an excessive amount for the wealthy countries that consume the drugs.

We are willing to work on this issue. We eagerly await this summit in order to make concrete proposals.

We have available, for example, a study by AID, the U.S. cooperation agency. According to this study, up to 80,000 hectares can be replaced over 2 years in Huallaga if some economic resources are made available.

This has been explained after years of studies by U.S. technicians. Why don't we implement this study?

This is an issue involving—like all the issues I have discussed—shared responsibility . This is an issue in which we must fairly distribute responsibilities. [passage omitted]